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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RICHARD GINN) Previous Group Art Unit: 3732
Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Previous Examiner: Eduardo C. Robert
Filed: Herewith (February 5, 2004)) Robert)
For: Apparatus and Methods for Treating Spinal Discs))

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to the MAIL STOP PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Lynne Fulmer